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February 8, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-B204  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* in WC Docket No. 02-60  
Request for Short-Term Emergency Relief  
Rural Health Care Program \$400 Million Funding Cap

Madam Secretary:

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules<sup>1</sup> we hereby provide notice of an oral ex parte presentation in connection with the above captioned proceeding. On Tuesday, February 7, 2017, Eric Brown, President and CEO of the California Telehealth Network ("CTN") (appearing telephonically) and undersigned counsel met with Jay Schwartz, Wireline Legal Advisor to Chairman Pai. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the benefits of open consortia like CTN, and specific examples of how Rural Health Care ("RHC") program funding daily helps save and improve lives in rural California.<sup>2</sup> We discussed the potential impacts of pro-rating funding on current program participants and the importance of the emergency request for interim RHC cap relief filed on November 30, 2016, by CTN and 9 other regional health networks operating in more than 14 states.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206.

<sup>2</sup> See Letter from Eric Brown, President and CEO, CTN to the FCC Chairman and Commissioners, WC Docket No. 02-60, Feb. 6, 2017 (providing real-world examples of how RHC program funding benefits rural providers and their patients).

<sup>3</sup> See Letter from Jeffrey Mitchell, Counsel for the Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband (SHLB) Coalition, to the FCC Chairman and Commissioners, WC Docket No. 02-60, Nov. 30, 2016, [https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/11302679329872/201611%20Letter%20from%20SHLB%20Petitioners%20re%20Interim%20RHC%20Cap%20Relief%20\(FINAL\).pdf](https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/11302679329872/201611%20Letter%20from%20SHLB%20Petitioners%20re%20Interim%20RHC%20Cap%20Relief%20(FINAL).pdf). Besides CTN, letter participants included: New England Telehealth Consortium, Health Information Exchange of Montana, Utah Telehealth Network, OCHIN, Texas Health Information Network Collaborative, Kentucky Telehealth Consortium, Colorado Telehealth Network, Southwest Telehealth Access Grid, and the Palmetto State Providers Network.

Finally, we briefly discussed the petition for rulemaking in the RHC program filed by CTN and other petitioners in late 2015.<sup>4</sup> Our discussions were consistent with data and arguments presented in the SHLB letter and petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Mitchell', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeffrey A. Mitchell  
Counsel for California Telehealth Network

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<sup>4</sup> See Petition for Rulemaking by SHLB Coalition, California Telehealth Network, New England Telehealth Consortium, Health Information Exchange of Montana, Utah Telehealth Network, Colorado Telehealth Network, and Southwest Telehealth Access Grid Seeking Amendment of Part 54 of the Commission's Rules to Further Modernize the Rural Health Care Program, WC Docket 02-60 (filed Dec. 7, 2015) <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/comment/view?id=60001324308>.